DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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EAST GERMAN UNITY BID

All-Party Delegation For Bonn

In a new attempt to attain German unity and a peace treaty the East German Parliament has elected a five man delegation to travel to Bonn.

In Bonn the delegates, representing all main parties, will be authorised to start negotiations with the representatives of the West German Parliament on:

1. The creation of an investigating commission for all-German elections.

2. The sending of delegates from East and West Germany to a Four Power Conference on Germany.

The delegates elected were Deputy Chairman Hermann Matern (Socialist Unity Party), Deputy Prime Minister Otto Nuschke (Christian Democratic Union), Minister for Supply Karl Hamann (Liberal Democratic Party), Heinrich Homann (National Democratic Party), and Ernst Goldenbaum (Democratic Peasants Party).

Simultaneously with the election of the delegation the East German Parliament issued an appeal to the German people to oppose the ratification of the Bonn Treaty and to fight for a real peace treaty with Germany.

"The direct and concrete way to a peaceful solution of the German question was shown by the note sent by the Soviet Government on August 23rd" the appeal stated.

"The Soviet Government proposed the immediate summoning of a conference of the Four Great Powers, in which representatives of the German Democratic Republic and the West German Federal Republic should participate.

"This Four Power Conference should discuss the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany, the establishment of an all-German government, and the holding of free all-German elections. At the same time a date shall be determined for withdrawal of the occupation troops from Germany.

"Germans in East and West!

"Come together without regard to differences of party, opinion or religion for united national action for the speediest calling of a Four Power Conference."

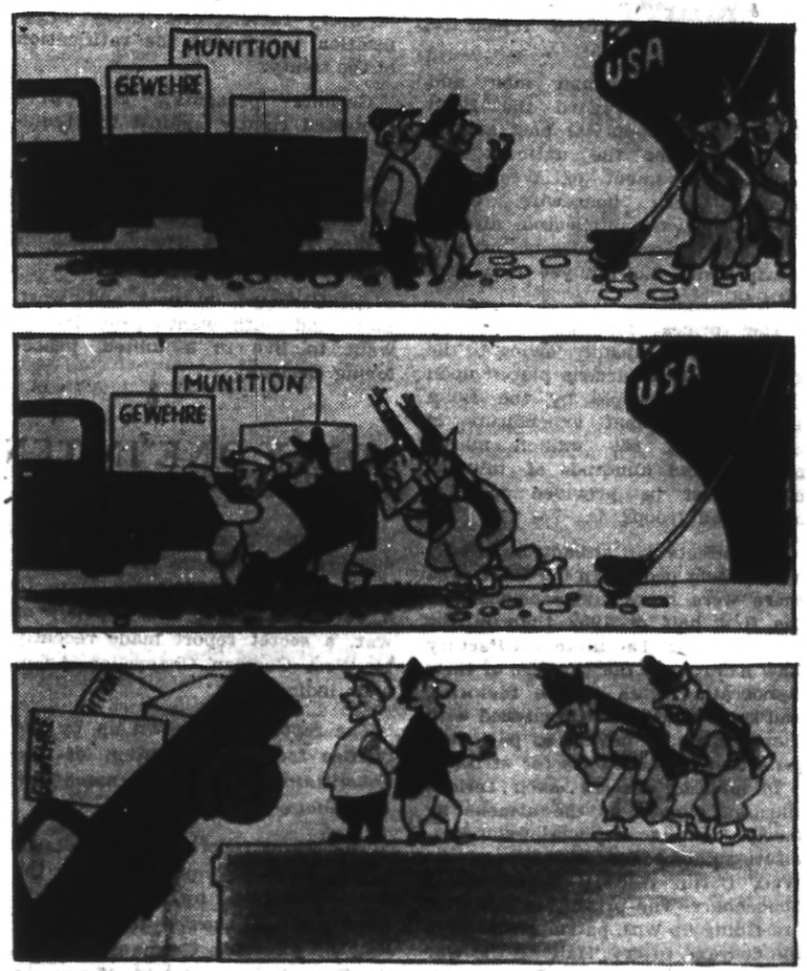
Synagogue Restored

A synagogue destroyed by the nazis, and rebuilt with the full assistance of the Government of the German Democratic Republic was consecrated in Erfurt on August 31st.

The government contributed 290,000 marks to help rebuild the synagogue on the site which it had occupied before it was gutted by nazi hooligans on November 9th 1938, the notorious pogrom night.

The ceremony was attended by representatives of the Jewish communities in Hamburg and Augsburg, West Germany; by Deputy Prime Minister Otto Nuschke, and leading Protestant and Catholic figures.

THE "BIG PUSH" FOR PEACE



(From "Frischer Wind", Berlin)

BONN TREATY LEADS TO WAR

By President Wilhelm Pieck

(In a Radio Address)

The very lives of the German people are in jeopardy at this moment. There is the greatest danger that the German people will be driven into a new war, that they will be driven into complete dependence upon the American powers-that-be, and that they will be reduced to poverty and misery.

The present plan is that the deputies of the West German Parliament should soon ratify the War Treaty which was signed by Adenauer in Bonn on May 26th after secret negotiations with the western generals. Adenauer has signed a rejection of all rights of sovereignty for the West German state.

Now the deputies of the West German parliament are being asked to approve this treaty, and thus take over the responsibility for the crime which Adenauer has committed against the people.

This must not be allowed to happen! The West German people, in powerful demonstrations, must persuade the deputies to reject the War Treaty.

Millions of German men and women rightly regard the Bonn Treaty as an open war pact and an instrument for the national and social enslavement of West Germany. Every housewife, every employee, every intellectual already feels the serious effects of the treaty which has not yet even been ratified.

The prices for all important foodstuffs rise steadily, owing to the great financial burdens placed upon the German people by the Bonn Treaty. Armament expenditure is estimated at 850 million marks monthly, and hundreds of millions more must be provided for the occupation troops.

The effects can already be felt by all working people. In the Ruhr area there were more fatal accidents in the first half of 1952 than in the whole of 1951. The infamous Factory Law has robbed the workers of their democratic rights in the factories, and trade unions are threatened with the prospect of having to pay compensation to the bosses for striking.

In addition we see such serious warning signals as the attacks by fascist bandits on workers' organisations, and the murder of the West Berlin railway worker Fritz Schoenherr. The prisons in the west are filling up with patriots who have the courage to cry 'Halt' to the war policy of the Adenauer Government.

With a full sense of the seriousness of my words I say today: The Bonn Treaty will lead to war. It will lead to the destruction of all that we love, to the destruction of our homeland and the death of our women and our children.

But the chance to bar the road to the war-makers lies in our hands, in the hands of all peace-loving people. We need not a War Treaty but a peace treaty, a sovereign German Government and a united democratic peace-loving Germany.

Social Democratic workers, members of the German Trade Union Federation! In your meetings and demonstrations you have always expressed the opinion that no government can continue in power when it is opposed by the united working class. Now you must put these words into action. The Bonn Treaty affects Social Democrats, Communists, Christians and unorganised workers all in the same way. That is why it is necessary to take joint decisions in every factory and every organisation to prevent the ratification of the treaty.

German peasants! You have protested rightly against the requisitioning of your villages to make airfields. Join with the workers and demand that your representatives in parliament, in local government bodies, reject this treaty which is intended to drive us into war.

All Germans, in east and west, north and south, want a peace treaty, want to live in a united, peace-loving Germany.

SOVIETS PROPOSE CONFERENCE SOON

The Soviet Government proposed the immediate summoning of a Four Power Conference to prepare a peace treaty with Germany in notes sent to Britain, France and the United States on August 23rd.

After outlining the exchange of East-West notes since the original Soviet Note in March this year, the Soviet Government made the following definite proposals:

"The Soviet Government proposes that in the immediate future, and in any case not later than October this year, a Four Power Conference should be convened with the following agenda:

"A. Preparation of the peace treaty with Germany.

B. Formation of an all-German government.

C. Holding of free all-German elections and the setting up, the composition, and the functions, of a commission to verify the existence of conditions in Germany for holding such elections.

"Together with this the Soviet Government proposes to discuss at this conference of the Four Powers the question of the date for the withdrawal of the occupation forces from Germany.

"The Soviet Government also proposes to invite the representatives of the German Democratic Republic and of the German Federal Republic to take part in the conference during the discussion of revelant questions."

"ONLY ONE IN TEN SUPPORT TREATY" — Secret Bonn Report

Only one West German in ten supports the Bonn Treaty committing the West German state to a new Wehrmacht and a policy of war, a secret report made recently to West German Chancellor Adenauer indicated.

The report was drawn up by the "Office for the Protection of the Constitution", the cover name for Adenauer's secret police.

The secret report, the contents of which were communicated to the democratic press by a high government official, showed that 75 percent of all West Germans rejected the Bonn Treaty outright, 15 percent were undecided, and only ten percent gave their support.

"There are three main reasons for this negative attitude" the report stated. "Firstly the population regards the Treaty as an obstacle to the creation of a united Germany. Secondly they fear that they will be dragged by the Americans into an armed conflict. Thirdly they object that the Treaty deprives the German people, for an indefinite period, of their sovereign rights and freedoms."

The secret police report warned Adenauer that the majority of the members of all middle-class parties were opposed to the treaty, and that all rank and file Social Democrats took up a hostile attitude.

Slave-Labour Specialist Back at Work

War criminal Heinrich Buetefisch, former S. S. officer and personal friend of Himmler, has gone back into business again in West Germany as member of the board of directors of the oil firm "Deutsche Gasolin AG".

During the war Buetefisch made himself an expert in squeezing the last ounce out of slave labourers in the concentration camps, and was in charge of the I. G. Farben Explosives Factory at Auschwitz, which was staffed almost entirely with camp inmates.

Before the war Buetefisch was managing director of the great Leuna Chemical Works at Merseburg, which is today playing a great part in building the peaceful economy of the German Democratic Republic.

(The "Deutsche Gasolin AG" is owned 25% by Standard Oil, New Jersey; 25% by Royal Dutch Shell; and 50% by I. G. Farben.)

Support for Unity Move

News of support for the new initiative taken by the East German Parliament came from all parts of West Germany.

At a mass meeting in Frankfurt American Zone), leading Catholic Dr. Joseph Wirth, one-time Chancellor of the Weimar Republic, announced that more than one third of the West German population were already actively working in the peace movement.

A resolution passed at the meeting called upon members of the West German Parliament to give their support to the negotiations.

In Stuttgart Dr. Paul Binder, local secretary of the Christian Democratic Union, Chancellor Adenauer's party, stated: "I am always in favour of negotiations. These discussions should be held as soon as possible."

Yank Recipe

"In Pennsylvania we have simply banned the Communist Party, and the Bonn government ought to do the same" said Judge Michael A. Musmanno of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court while visiting West Berlin.

Nazi Pilots for the R. A. F.

Dawn Police Visit

(From our West German Correspondent)

The British military authorities in West Germany have begun to register former nazi Luftwaffe pilots for refresher courses with the Royal Air Force.

Reports from all parts of the British Zone show that former German pilots have been forcibly taken to British military offices and examined to determine whether they are suitable for "re-employment."

A former flyer, resident in Recklinghausen, gave this account of his experiences:

"On August 19th a car drew up in front of my house at 6 a. m., there was a loud knock on the door, and I heard a shout: 'Open up, it is the police.'

"When I opened the door two plain clothes men came in, told me I had nothing to fear, checked my papers, and asked me if I had been a pilot. When I answered in the affirmative they told me to get dressed and come along with them. I would be home before evening, they assured me.

"Together with a number of other former pilots I was then brought to an office in Muenster, apparently the office of the British Secret Service, where we found a total of some 200 former Luftwaffe pilots assembled.

"I was examined by a British major, who wanted to know in exactly which squadron I had served in the war. He was particularly interested in those of my colleagues who had served in the intelligence branch.

"The major told us that we would probably be called-up to take a refresher course in piloting jet-planes.

"After a physical examination and registration we were then allowed to go home."

Leipzig Fair Shows East German Prosperity

Exports Booming

Trade between East Germany and the Socialist countries was today six times as high as it had been in 1948, Deputy Prime Minister Heinrich Rau announced on September 7th.

He was opening the Leipzig Trade Fair, at which, for ten days, merchants from the whole world had a chance to put their orders not only with the firms of the German Democratic Republic, but also with the industry of China, the Soviet Union and the countries of eastern Europe.

Minister Rau emphasised that the 1952 Fair was the first to be held in a Germany which was building Socialism.

"This Fair shows the building of Socialism in the German Democratic Republic, it shows the close economic ties between our country and the People's Democracies, People's China, and particularly the Soviet Union" Heinrich Rau stated.

"This Fair also shows our desire for correct trade relations with business circles in the capitalist countries."

"Eighty percent of our foreign trade is done with the friendly Socialist countries. This means that four-fifths of our foreign trade is on an absolutely sure basis, with markets unaffected by crises. The tempo of the development of our trade with the Soviet Union and the People's Democracies can be seen from the fact that between 1948 and 1951, the volume of trade increased six times.

"This year we shall double our trade with Hungary compared to last year, treble our trade with Rumania, and quadruple our trade with China.

"In our Five Year Plan we made plans for foreign trade to be trebled between 1950 and 1955. It is already clear today that this goal will be reached and exceeded.

"If the obstacles placed in the way of world trade by the American monopolists were overcome, and if political conditions were not attached to trade agreements, we should be able to increase greatly the volume of trade with the capitalist countries."

Goethe Prize for Architect, Singer and Poet

The Goethe Prizes awarded every year to leading artists by the East Berlin administration went this year to Professor Hermann Henselmann, architect who designed many of the new buildings on East Berlin's Stalin Allee; Michael Bohnen, West Berlin operatic singer and friend of peace; and the talented young poet Paul Wiens.

An article by Paul Wiens appears on another page of this issue.

PROFILE

FRIEDRICH FLICK — Multi-Millionaire War Criminal

When currency reform came to Germany in 1948 the cash and the bank accounts of ordinary people were exchanged at a rate which gave them one new mark for ten old marks.

An exception had to be made in West Germany for people who were very rich, of course. Richest of all was Friedrich Flick, coal and steel magnate, arms king, war criminal. The change-over in his case took a little longer, since such huge sums were involved (Herr Flick was estimated to be worth 750 million marks at the end of the war), but by early this year everything was settled, and the stock of his largest holding "Harpener Bergbau A.G." was revalued in the new West German currency. Not at the rate of ten old marks for one new one: at the rate of one old mark for 3.7 new marks — a rate 37 times as advantageous as that obtained by ordinary folk.

War Profiteer

It is worth recalling something of the record of Friedrich Flick, who was Hitler's chief economic expert.

Flick first became really rich in the first world war, when he saw the chances of making money in the scrap iron business. By his ruthless methods he had soon built himself an iron and coal empire, including pits and foundries in the Ruhr, in central Germany, and in Silesia. By 1939 the pits which he controlled were producing over 35 million tons of coal annually, and his foundries turned out nearly two million tons of steel, placing him third, behind Krupp and the "Vereinigte Stahlwerke," in the list of German steel producers.

Inhuman Acts

After the war, when he was brought to trial in Nuremberg, charged with war crimes, U. S. Prosecutor Telford Taylor summed up the charges against him:

"The industrialists in the dock are not there because they became so rich in Hitler's service. They are there because they shamelessly broke the principles of human behaviour laid down in international law. It would be a great mistake to regard the Third Reich as a tyranny based on Hitler and his party hangmen. A dictatorship can only be successful if it is supported by powerful groups. One of these groups was heavy industry. Krupp, Flick, Thyssen in heavy industry and Beck, von Fritsch and Rundstedt in the army were the basis upon which Hitler built his power.

"The accused will probably say that they believed in the inviolability of private property, but the factories in Rombach and Riga which they took belonged to someone else. The accused will try to show that they were never anti-Semitic, and that they had even protected individual Jews. This did not prevent them however from appearing in public with Himmler, and treating him in a royal fashion, although he was preaching the slaughter of all the Jews in Europe. They grew fat on the bad luck of rich Jews. In their mines and in their factories they turned back the clock of history and revived slavery in Europe."

Specific Charges

The specific charges against Flick were:

1. Participation in, and enrichment by the Fascist policy of "Aryanisation." *Evidence was given to show that Flick, because of his excellent connections with the Nazi Party, had been able to take over such "Aryanised" concerns as the Petschek Lignite Mines in central Germany, the Luebeck Foundries and chemical works in Berlin and Munich.*

2. Helping the Nazi Party to power by providing enormous subsidies. *Evidence showed the financial support he gave to nazi leaders, particularly Himmler and Goering, to whom he presented four million marks in 1943.*

3. Economic looting of the territories occupied by Hitlerite fascism. *In Austria he acquired the Salzburg Mine and Foundry Co. at very favourable rates, in France he looted the Rombach Foundries, and in the Soviet Union he stole the Riga Waggon Works, and, together with Goering, a total of 14 south Russian iron and steelworks, which he combined under the title "Dnjepr-Stahl GmbH."*

Slave Labour

4. Responsibility for the enslavement and deportation of millions of Poles, Frenchmen and Soviet citizens. *By the end of the war 40 percent of the workers in Flick's factories were foreign slave labourers, prisoners of war, and concentration camp inmates.*

Flick was found guilty of all these crimes, but received only the mild sentence of seven years imprisonment. After serving less than three years he was released by the American authorities on August 16th 1950, on grounds of "good conduct." His release coincided almost exactly with the open drive launched by the American government to rearm West Germany for a new aggressive war.

His properties in West Germany were handed over to him again, and Herr Flick, according to modest estimates, is once again the richest man in Germany, worth about 400 million marks (about 100 million dollars).

But this is not enough for the 69 year-old industrialist. His 23 coal mines, his foundries and his rolling mills are working at full speed for the western war machine, but he is still extending his tentacles for more. His latest conquests include margarine and soap factories and important chemical plant.

And after all, his empire is considerably smaller today than it was at the height of his power. Not only has he lost the foundries at Rombach in France and the steel works on the Dnieper: in East Germany too he has had painful amputations. The great steel works of Riesa and Hennigsdorf, the Bautzen Waggon Factory, and many many other factories have been taken away from him.

As the property of a nazi and war criminal they passed in 1946 into the possession of the German people, and are hard at work today rebuilding the peaceful economy of the German Democratic Republic.

The steel workers of Hennigsdorf and Riesa are earning more and living better than they ever have before. They know however that Friedrich Flick has not forgotten the factories which he used to own, and that he is one of the men behind the new plans of aggression in West Germany.

That is why they, like the workers and small farmers throughout the German Democratic Republic are ready to fight, if need be, to keep the factories and fields, which at last belong to those who work them.

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THUGS SLAY MAN HITLER COULD NOT KILL

West Berlin Police Shield Murderers

West Berlin neo-nazi thugs have murdered Fritz Schoenherr, railway worker and Communist, who came through Hitler's concentration camps alive.

The murder was committed on August 19th on Schoenherr's allotment in the British Sector of West Berlin. Frau Schoenherr, his wife, found the body next morning. The shirt was covered with blood, and the back of Schoenherr's head was bloody.

Frau Schoenherr called the police — the West Berlin police, since the murder had been carried out in West Berlin. The police excluded Frau Schoenherr from the garden hut in which the body was while they cleared up the signs of a struggle, washed away the bloodstains, and took other steps to make it appear as if Schoenherr had died a natural death.

After they had gone, Schoenherr's family and friends found further traces of blood, and large damp areas on the floor where the detectives had carefully tried to conceal the traces.

No note of the death was given in the usual West Berlin police bulletin, and West Berlin newspapers ignored the murder for three whole days. On August 23rd the French licenced "Kurier" stated that Schoenherr had died of "heart failure" and that the stains on his shirt were "natural discolouration". Other West Berlin papers next day said that death had been due to a stroke. On August 26th the American licenced "Tagesspiegel" reported that the stains on the shirt were fruit stains, and the British licenced "Telegraf" claimed that there had been no stains at all.

Most convincing proof that the West Berlin police had something to hide was the fact that they refused to hand over the body to the East Berlin Humboldt University for a post mortem examination, although this was requested by the widow.

During the funeral for Schoenherr, in the French Sector, West Berlin police brutally attacked the huge crowds, and acting together with gangs of fascist thugs, bludgeoned and kicked hundreds of railwaymen and others who had come from all parts of Berlin to pay their last respects.

A number of arrests were made, but nearly all those arrested were rescued from the police.

Schoenherr who was born in 1907 had devoted his whole adult life to the working class movement. In the early 1930's, as the nazis became very active in Berlin, Schoenherr played a prominent part in organising joint Socialist-Communist defence of worker' quarters against fascist attacks.

When Hitler came to power in 1933 he emigrated to Czechoslovakia, but later returned illegally to Germany to help organise the underground struggle against the nazis.

Arrested by the Gestapo, he spent many years in the concentration camps of Neubrandenburg and Bautzen. In 1945, after his liberation, he took up the post of district social service officer in Charlottenburg, British Sector. In 1948 the West Berlin administration expelled him from this post, and he returned to his trade of railway worker.

The murder of Fritz Schoenherr is only the latest of a series of attacks on the organised railwaymen of West Berlin, who have proved themselves one of the main pillars of the fight for peace and democracy there.

A few days before the murder a gang of about 200 fascist rowdies, armed with revolvers and blackjacks, invaded the trade union offices on the Westend Railway Station in the British Sector, after shooting out the lock, and smashed the furniture.

West Berlin police arrived after a delay of 30 minutes, when the raiders had long disappeared.

REBUILDING BERLIN'S CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

Work has begun on the big job of rebuilding St. Hedwig's Catholic Cathedral in the Democratic Sector of Berlin, and the Government of the German Democratic Republic has assisted by contributing 100,000 marks towards the cost. The remainder of the money is being raised by private collections in all parts of Germany.

The rebuilding work on the cathedral, which was completely burned out in an American air raid on Berlin in April 1943, is being carried out by the nationally-owned construction company.

A completely new construction method is being used for the restoration of the cupola, which in the old cathedral, built in 1747, was made of wood. In the square in front of the church a small factory for making prefabricated parts in reinforced concrete has been set up, and is turning out the segments of the cupola. A total of 84 segments, each 75 feet long and weighing eight tons, will be hoisted to roof as they are ready, to form the new dome.

St. Hedwig's Cathedral is only one of the churches in the Democratic Sector which is being restored with the help of government grants. Other grants have included 300,000 marks for the restoration of Berlin Cathedral, 160,000 marks for the Maria Church, and 50,000 marks for the Advent Church.

Adenauer's Police Persecute Catholic

West German police forced their way into the home of prominent Catholic writer Christa Thomas in Düsseldorf, British Zone, during her absence on August 31st, broke open her desk, and confiscated her entire correspondence.

The material confiscated included Christian peace newspapers such as "Pax Christi" and the "Christliche Welt".

Bonn Police Suppress Left Press

Communist daily newspapers appearing in Hamburg, Bremen and Kiel were confiscated a total of four times during the last week in August.

Reason given for one of the confiscations was this paragraph which had been printed in the papers:

"Free elections in the whole of Germany will only become possible after the overthrow of the Adenauer government."

Fascists Raid Communist Office

Members of the neo-nazi "Federation of German Youth" raided the local offices of the Communist Party in Bonn on August 19th, smashing furniture and stealing files.

The "Federation" receives a big subsidy from the West German Ministry of All-German Affairs.

THE GERMAN PEOPLE GIVE THEMSELVES A PRESENT

By Dorothy Diamond

The writer of this article is the Honorary Secretary of the British Council for German Democracy. The Council, which has its headquarters at 49, King Edwards Gardens, London W. 3, is doing valuable work in Britain particularly in the fight against West German remilitarisation.

"In the week from August 18th-24th 13,801 voluntary helpers took part in the work of rubble clearing at concentration-point II of the National Rebuilding Programme".

That is, 13,800 helpers and I! "We" rescued over half a million bricks in that week. My share in the number of cleaned bricks was a minute one, but the 3 hours spent chipping mortar from the ruins of 1945 was for me very significant indeed. The significance lay not only in the fact that I, an Englishwoman, was helping to rebuild Berlin — though that was important — for I should be very happy indeed to take part in a similar rebuilding campaign in England. The main importance lay in the character of the campaign — the National Rebuilding Programme of Berlin and the German Democratic Republic. Here is something which grips the human mind, and stirs the people to very great personal and national effort.

Salvaging Bricks

From January 2nd to July 31st of this year over three quarters of a million people have worked voluntarily on at least one 3-hour rubble-cleaning shift — their work has rescued well over 26 million whole bricks — enough to build more than 1,000 flats! And a thousand of these voluntary workers have done over 150 shifts each — the proud wearers of a very special badge. It takes great determination to give up 4 hours or so every Sunday morning, and evenings after work as well — on dusty, unpaid, seemingly endless mortar-chipping, brickdust-shovelling, or the sorting of rusty scrap-iron from the ruins. But they go on doing it — the free giving of labour for the rebuilding of their capital city — "more beautiful than ever" — is firmly established among the people. Who does this work? With me were housewives, a lawyer, a student-teacher, office workers, a professor, a schoolboy, two doctors — all of us under the leadership of the building workers in charge of the site. Unemployed workers from West-Berlin come over to help — sector boundaries are no hindrance to those who want to rebuild for a peaceful future.

Not only is physical work freely given; the whole rebuilding plan is financed by an enormous voluntary scheme — 1 1/3 million citizens of the German Democratic Republic are contributing 3 % of their income for this year as a loan repayable in the next 6 years — a new kind of "National Insurance"! And from all over Germany come gifts towards the building; an elderly woman came over from the West Sector to bring the hammers of her late husband; Karl Görsch of Ludwigsfelde, an old age pensioner of 76, sent 3 hammers, a pick, and other tools; a blacksmith from a small town in the German Democratic Republic makes new tools from scrap metal in his spare time, and sends them to the site.

And in the same spirit come other contributions of a very different size — from whole factories; on May 1st the workers of the Bleichert and Wetzel Factories in Leipzig, with the help of 99 other factories, presented the Rebuilding Committee with two enormous mechanical shovels, each of which can load a 3-ton truck with sand inside 2 minutes, and each of which is worth 44,000 marks. The workers of other factories, in the same way, have contributed lorries, Diesel locomotives, railway lines — in all cases the work is done in voluntary shifts, and the material is obtained by collecting and saving scrap. The gifts are not confined to tools, however; window glass from a private firm making christmas-tree-decorations, nails, screws — all are sent or brought in response to the published plans; and from workers in consumer goods factories come other gifts — shoes, sewing machines, typewriters, tea services, working-suits and textiles — from the theatres free theatre tickets and from farmers the money from sales of farmproduce — all as gifts and bonuses for the best workers on the building-sites.

Lastly, and of very great importance, come the gifts of new ideas, inventions and methods of work, which contribute permanently to the rebuilding of the whole Republic; such are the new architectural plans and building methods.

The architects, planners, and building workers themselves have the greatest part to play in the success of the Rebuilding Programme; during 1952 alone over 2,000 flats will be built in Stalin Allee, and thousands more in other parts of Berlin and other towns in the Republic. On August 30th two more blocks in Stalin Alee (B-North and B-South) were completed to the roof, making 284 more flats for the workers of Berlin — to be completely ready for occupation by December 21st. All types of building workers, from planners to cleaners, are taking part in continuous group competition for good work and speed, and the two new blocks celebrated their completion 14 days in advance of plan; the best brigades and workers were rewarded with bonuses totalling 22,000 marks, and with decorations for individual achievement.

Heroic Deeds

From the architects to the girl of the little "rubble-train", from the old age pensioner with 200 rubble-clearing shifts to the National Rebuilding Committee — they know that what they are building is good. As Max Schneider, the Secretary of the Committee, said at the B-Block celebrations "Here we forge links between workers and intellectuals in the joint mastering of difficulties — here the new master-builders of our Socialist Construction achieve heroic deeds".

The total picture of effort and achievement as I have seen it, under difficult post-war conditions, but with such enormous human help and encouragement, is absolutely convincing proof of the desire of the people in the German Democratic Republic for peaceful reconstruction; as I have personally experienced in many other ways, they pour money and effort into actions for peace with boundless generosity. On the other hand, if what they are building with such expenditure of freely-given energy should be attacked by crazy war-makers, the people of the German Democratic Republic would undoubtedly defend it, and effectively, with their lives.

Their mothers should have been there . . .

By Paul Wiens

The author of this article on the recent rally of Young Pioneers in Dresden, East Germany, is one of Germany's most promising young poets. He has just been awarded the Goethe Prize of the City of Berlin.

The paunchy businessman who was waiting for the tram did not look as if the chattering groups of children all round him agreed with his nervous system. Snortingly he gave me information: "The Japanese Palace? It's on the Kaiser Platz." With an unfriendly gesture he waved towards some grassgrown ruins.

But two young Dresdeners, wearing the blue scarves of the Pioneers, were more helpful. "Come along with us. It is on the Karl Marx Platz. We've got our model ships there."

The children were tightly packed round the edge of the fountain pond. The young boat builders were proudly showing what the big sailing boats which tney had built themselves could do.

Young Finnish Pioneers, in shirts of eirin green, were watching with the air of experts. Among the crowd was a young Dresdener, holding in his hand the clumsy boat he had whittled for himself: a blunt black boat with a square red sail.

After watching for a while with envious eyes the graceful movements of the big, expertly built ships, he took a deep breath and said: "Let me shove your ship out once."

"Of course" said the friendly Young Pioneer, and two others, standing close by, exchanged a knowing glance and said: "He's not organised yet."

Tomorrow the "unorganised" lad will go with his new friends to the Pioneer Palace, to learn in their shipbuilding group how to build even better, more graceful boats than those they are sailing here. And there is no better way of seeing the great step forward taken by a youngster when he grows up as one of a community, one of a collective group, than by comparing the lopsided clumsy black boat whittled by a ten-year old on his own, with the fine models constructed by other ten-year olds working together with a purpose and plan.

In the afternoon I looked down, with a group of Berlin Pioneers, from the sandstone crags of the Bastei into the summery valley of the Elbe. The level of the river is unusually low this year, and the thousands of young naturalists could not sail up the river by steamer as planned, but had to come by train to the little town of Rathen.

Theire is no bridge here, but in a few hours engineers of a Soviet Army unit stationed nearby had built a pontoon bridge across the river for their young German friends. And they called their bridge, decked with bunting, the "Bridge of Friendship."

From above we can see the thousands of Young Pioneers, with their gay flags, crossing the bridge like a brightly coloured caterpillar.

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How I wished that the mothers of all these 55,000 young people, of all these 55,000 Pioneers, could have been in Dresden. How I wished that every one of these mothers could walk through the city with her children: could see the Pioneer railway, with its engine driven by a pround Pioneer, puff into the station called "Happy Future."

The railway runs through a big park, the park into which many Dresden mothers, with their children, sought refuge on February 13th 1945 when the city went up in flames in a terror raid.

Today the first red-golden signs of autumn fringe the leaves of the trees, and fine new streets are growing among the ruins. And everywhere in this city are the children: In the stadium on the Fucik Platz they are playing water-polo and measuring their strength in races; young engineers are admiring the model railway built by the Pioneers of Baerenwald; in a readers' discussion group organised by the childrens' publishing house a fair-haired lad of twelve gets up and says: "This book does not describe clearly enough how the early stages of photography were. I should like to have known how it was invented . . ."

In a school in a suburb the Pioneers from Berlin are assembled to receive a new flag from the People's Police. The policeman handing over the flag says:

"You receive this flag from the hands of your fathers and brothers, from the workers who build the Stalin Allee, who drive the tractors, who carry the weapons to defend our homeland, our people, and all of you against every enemy . . ."

On the wall of the schoolroom is a quotation from Goethe: "It is not enough to know, we must also use our knowledge; it is not enough to want, we must act."

How I wished that the mothers could have been there, at the meetings and discussions on living and learning, and at the Children's Council; how I wished that they could have seen these assembled intelligent, wide-awake faces, and watched the assured and unself-conscious way in which the children directed their own meeting.

They could not be there in person, but they were there in spirit, in the thoughts and feelings of their children, these children who are growing up free and with open eyes, growing up to storm the heights of a happy, Socialist future.

Students Study in Moscow

One hundred and sixty German students who will study for the next few years at Moscow and other universities in the Soviet Union left Berlin on August 28th.

A total of well over 300 German students, most of whom come from working class families, are now studying at Soviet universities.

West German Workers For Strike Action

The workers of the Rathgeber Truck Works in Munich, American Zone, have commissioned their union representatives to fight for a clear programme of wage increases and opposition to remilitarisation.

All 1800 workers, with one single opposition vote, agreed on the following demands to be raised at the forthcoming delegate meeting of the Engineering Union in Stuttgart:

Strike action for 15 pfennigs per hour on wages.

Expulsion from the union of all union officials who oppose the fight against the reactionary new factory law.

Immediate withdrawal of all union representatives from government production councils, etc., which give support to Adenauer's war policy.

The union press must refrain from indulging in any form of hate campaign, particularly the hate campaign against the east.

Crime Figures Down in East Germany

Figures for crimes reported were one quarter down in the first six months of this year, compared to the last six months of 1951, official statistics show.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

British and American newspapers frequently carry tear-jerking stories about alleged refugees flooding into West Berlin from East Germany, and GERMAN REPORT has answered these allegations several times in the past.

Particularly interesting details which came out in a West Berlin court some time ago about one of these "refugees" have been reprinted in a book issued in East Berlin by democratic lawyer Dr. Friedrich Kaul, which I have just been reading, and the story is worth reprinting.

"Political Refugee"

A People's Policeman was on trial in a West Berlin court on a charge of "kidnapping." Here is Dr. Kaul's cross-examination of a witness named Eberhard Wendel.

Kaul: You claim to be a "political refugee from the east zone."

Wendel: That's right.

K: Please outline your life since 1945.

W: First I studied at Munich Art School, then I lived at Brunswick (British Zone, ed.) with my parents.

K: How long?

W: (hesitating) Until 1949. Until December 1949.

K: When did you come to the German Democratic Republic?

W: On December 15th 1949 I went to visit relatives in Ernstgeorgenstadt.

K: Where did you go then?

W: On December 17th I started working at Aue (East Germany, ed.) as a miner.

K: When did you stop working there?

W: On January 4th 1950.

K: What did you do then?

W: I went to West Berlin, to the refugee camp.

K: I recapitulate. You spent the eighteen days from December 17th 1949 to January 4th 1950 in the German Democratic Republic. Three of the days were Christmas and New Year holidays. And on that basis you call yourself a political refugee. Who paid for your trip?

Spy Group

W: I refuse to answer the question.

President of the court: This question is not admissable.

K: Witness, are you a member of the "Fighting Group Against Inhumanity?" (American financed spy and sabotage group, ed.).

W: (nervously) Yes.

K: Did the "Fighting Group" pay for your trip?

W: (very hesitant) No.

K: Did the "Fighting Group" give you any sort of assistance for the trip?

W: (very hesitant) Only for expenses.

K: What expenses?

W: For travelling expenses.

K: Thank you, that is enough. It is clear that Wendel is a paid provocateur. At the beginning of his evidence he stated that he was a political refugee. Examination has shown that he had spent a total of 14 working days, with the support of the "Fighting Group Against Humanity" in the German Democratic Republic.

*

So much for the shorthand report of the court proceedings. If anyone should doubt this astonishing story, he can look it up in the official records of the Moabit Criminal Court, in the British Sector of Berlin. The date of the trial in question was July 11th 1950.

Of course paid agents sent into East Germany from the west are not the only people who turn up as refugees. A small percentage of them are even ordinary decent people, confused and misled by western radio stations. But most of them are anti-social elements that any state is glad to be rid of.

The further history of Eberhard Wendel, the "refugee" dealt with above, is not without interest. On October 14th 1950 a court in the Democratic Sector of Berlin sent him to prison for five years for making a political bomb attack.

Ghost Planes

Honorary title for "Phoniest Story of the Month" goes to Dennis Martin, Bonn correspondent of the London Daily Express, for an outstandingly imaginative paragraph in that paper on September 1st.

"Official figures in West Germany tonight show that more than 16,000 people have fled from the Soviet Zone to Berlin in August alone — 11,000 by air."

Now there simply is no air service from any part of the East German Republic to Berlin, with the sole exception of a Leipzig-Berlin shuttle service during the Leipzig Fair running for a few days once a year.

I can think of two possible explanations for this weird "news item." One is that correspondent Martin meant to say "16,000 are alleged to have fled, but 11,000 turn out to be hot air."

The other explanation is that Martin, who years ago used to be an honest, and even a progressive journalist, has had an attack of conscience about the nonsense he writes. I have seen this happen to other journalists, and they have often tried to drown their consciences in pink gin. If this is the case he may easily have seen thousands and thousands of "refugees" sitting on the backs of pink or even sky-blue elephants, and gliding down to perfect four-point landings.

Reminder

When I started publishing GERMAN REPORT at the beginning of the year, I planned a generous free list, so that the paper should become known in all parts of the world, and so that the truth about events in both parts of Germany should reach as many people as possible, as quickly as possible.

Now our free list has reached bursting point, and pruning must soon begin. To make quite sure of receiving GERMAN REPORT in future, therefore, readers who are not yet subscribers are advised to subscribe.

Subscriptions in Britain and U.S.A. should go to the addresses given in every issue of this paper. In most other countries postal subscriptions are accepted by progressive bookstalls and newsagents.

In case of difficulty, write to me direct at Friedrichstrasse 167/III, Berlin W 8. Readers who really need the paper and cannot afford a subscription should also write to me, and I will try to keep them on the list.

Confident that this appeal will make copies available for others, we shall be pleased to send sample copies of the paper to any addresses which readers send in.

Many Thanks

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the unknown friend in West Germany who for the past few weeks has been regularly sending me cuttings from English newspapers.

They have been well selected and very useful, and I should be grateful if readers in other countries would do the same when their local papers print sensational stories, particularly about alleged developments in East Germany.

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